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THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

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APRIL MEETING — AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 8,** at **7:30 p.m.** in the Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. We thought it would be fun to give some of our own members a chance to present an informal program of slides taken on vacations, on field trips, or at backyard feeders. All of you camera enthusiasts are therefore invited to bring ten of your favorite slides to share with the rest of us. Anything goes. After the program we will have an informal get-together. With the help of anyone who cares to volunteer, Mrs. Joshua Barkin will serve coffee, tea, punch, cookies and doughnuts.

So that we can judge the timing and ensure that all who wish to participate are given a chance to do so, please call Josh Barkin (524-2495) if you would like to show slides. For those who may wish to show more than ten slides, we might be able to arrange a brief, special showing after the coffee period. —PEARL BARKIN.

"SCENIC NORTHWEST HOLIDAY"

On **Friday, April 16,** at **8 p.m.** the Oakland Museum's Adventure Club will present "Scenic Northwest Holiday" in the Museum Theater. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rogers will show slides of their outdoor trips to Oregon coast beaches, Crater Lake, Craters of the Moon, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Dinosaur National Monument, Canyonlands, and Lehman Caves in Nevada. Admission is free.

OAKLAND MUSEUM TO CO-SPONSOR WILDLIFE FILMS

Golden Gate Audubon has joined forces with the Natural Sciences Guild of the Oakland Museum Association to co-sponsor the 1971-1972 Audubon Wildlife Film Series, which will be held at the Oakland Auditorium Theater. Of particular importance in entering into this jointly sponsored endeavor is the potential for bringing the Audubon message to a much larger audience. The Oakland Auditorium Theater has finer projection equipment, a larger screen, and a much larger seating capacity than King Junior High School. Other advantages are the theater's more centralized location and its parking facilities. When BART is completed, many may find the system of convenience in reaching the theater;

the main Oakland station, now under construction, is only two blocks away.

If enough of our members from Berkeley are interested, special bus transportation may be arranged from central Berkeley. Ticket prices will remain unchanged. Details on the series will be announced in the fall.—FRANCES ELLEN FALLGATTER, *Wildlife Films Chairman.*

SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

In the House of Representatives, on January 22, 1971, Mr. Edwards of California introduced a bill "To provide for the establishment of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge." This bill (H.R. 111), co-sponsored by Congressmen Burton, Dellums, Gubser, Leggett, McClosky, Moss, and Waldie has been referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The lands and waters covered by the provisions of the bill (i.e., planning, acquisition, and development) are located in Redwood City, San Mateo County; Fremont, Alameda County; and the Alviso area of San Jose, Santa Clara County (plus an additional buffer zone on the easterly side of Steamboat and Artesian Sloughs). The Department of Interior report "San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge" (1970) and the color brochure prepared by the County of Santa Clara Planning Department are excellent sources of information on the proposed refuge.

Congressman Garmatz (Mich.) is Chairman of the committee that will hear this bill. According to the information at the time of writing, hearings are scheduled for April 8 to 18. Five California Congressmen are members of this committee: Leggett, Mailliard, and McClosky from northern California, and Anderson and Hanna from southern California. We must make our case for the refuge heard clearly and emphatically if we expect the bill to get out of committee and on to eventual passage.

If the bill is passed, almost 10,000 acres of salt ponds, more than 4,000 acres of salt marsh, about 6,600 acres of tidal mud flats, about 2,000 acres of open water, and 95 acres of upland will be saved as habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife (including some on the "endangered" list) and as open space to be enjoyed by people for recreation and nature study. Other plans for these lands include a jetport that would require some 84 million cubic yards of earth fill (where would it come from?) plus light industrial and residential development.

Letters written by individuals will do far more good than petitions or form letters. Contributions of money are urgently needed by the San Francisco Wildlife Refuge Fund to finance transportation for those who the Refuge Fund would like to be able to send to Washington to testify at the hearings. Contributions and lists of names of interested letter-writers are being collected by the Refuge Fund. Address: P.O. Box 4386, San Jose, California 95126.

Some points that letter-writers should keep in mind are these:

1. Should this land be developed for industrial or residential use, subsidence and differential settlement could cause many expensive construction and maintence problems. Would the costs be absorbed by an increase in the tax burden? Measurements of subsidence of the lands in

the South Bay have been made since the turn of the century. At the South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso, the land has subsided 8 feet since 1900. The *rate* of *subsidence* has increased in recent years; in this same area, the land subsided 4 feet between 1960 and 1967. Geologists warn that the unconsolidated muds of the baylands will shake like a bowl of jelly in a severe earthquake.

2. If left as open space, this area will continue to contribute to our mild climate.

3. The Cord Grass and other marsh grasses are rich suppliers of oxygen. Cord Grass at the bottom of the food chain, supplies food for estuarine invertebrates, which in turn are food for fingerling fish, shellfish, ducks, and shorebirds.

4. It is estimated that the South Bay provides food, shelter, and rest for about 70 percent of the shorebirds and waterfowl that pass through here on the Pacific Flyway. These birds, as well as those that winter in the area and those that nest there could become endangered if their habitat is destroyed by fill.

5. President Nixon has expressed his interest in saving open space near urban areas.

So far no bill for the proposed refuge has been introduced in the Senate. Last year there was some interest, but this year none is evident. Support from our Senators, Mr. Cranston and Mr. Tunney, might be of invaluable aid. This year marks the third try for the refuge. Please help.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Members and guests who joined the "crane-watching caravan" at Thornton on February 14 returned to the Bay Area via Highway 4 to see the Whistling Swans in the Victoria Island area. We were apalled at the scores of swan carcasses that were strewn across ponds, dikes, and recently drained fields.

I learned the following day from the Department of Fish and Game that an outbreak of fowl cholera had killed an estimated 2,000 swans, 2,000 Snow and White-fronted Geese, and a few thousand ducks and coots. This is not an uncommon occurence in our Delta and Great Valley in the winter months, and there is little control beyond immediate pickup of victims and draining of shallow ponds. Why the pickup of these dead birds was neglected remains an unanswered question. The disease is extremely contagious, spreading from dead and dying birds to the healthy ones. No publicity is given to these tragic happenings. If Department personnel are unable to cover such situations, why can't they alert Audubon, the Boy Scouts ,or Ecology groups to volunteer to pick up birds?

Marine and admiralty law specialist James Penrod spoke before a panel on *tanker control* at the University of California, Berkeley, on February 25. He predicted that no effective legislation will be passed to accomplish this goal. Only a massive public clamor, he claimed, could overcome the political influence of the maritime industry.—PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL

Sun. April 4—To Briones Regional Park to study land birds. From Oakland take Highway 24 to the Orinda exit. Turn left, go under the highway overpass, and travel north on Camino Pablo. At Bear Creek Road make a right turn and follow the road for 4 miles to the park entrance. Meet there at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch and interested friends. Leader, Bertha Underhill (848-0131).

Sat. April 10—Kirby Cove for a two-hour trip, 9 to 11 a.m. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Sausalito exit, and in 1/8 mile turn left and wait at the east end of the Fort Cronkhite tunnel (do not go through the tunnel). We will caravan from there at **9 a.m.** sharp. Be prepared to walk a mile or more. There will be warblers, kinglets, and shorebirds. Leader, Pat Triggs.

Thur. April 15—Same trip as above. Leader, Mrs. Hubert Fry. (731-2874)

Sat. April 17—Come to Sunol Regional Park to see the Prairie Falcons; a pair of them live on top of Flag Hill. Rock Wrens are also to be expected. It is a stiff climb to the top; don't try it unless you are feeling hale and hardy. Leader, Tom Carson (581-2655).

For those who prefer a level walk, there will be another trip on this day through oak country to see Nuttall's Woodpeckers and perhaps a Golden Eagle. Wildflowers may compete with the birds for attention. Leader, Richard Johnson (533-7118).

To get to the park go east on Interstate 580; just past the big Dublin interchange, turn right onto Interstate 680. After about 8 miles exit where the sign says *Calaveras Road.* Immediately after leaving 680 turn left onto Calaveras Road, and follow it for several miles to the sign that points to the park, which lies about a mile beyond the left turn onto Geary Road. **Both trips start at 9 a.m.** from the Brown Cottage Headquarters. Bring lunch and interested friends.

Sun. April 25—Our annual trip to McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, in the Livermore Valley. Meet in Livermore one block beyond the tall flagpole on Livermore Avenue at **8:30 a.m.** We will see Phainopeplas, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Western Kingbirds. Bring lunch. Leader, Aileen Pierson (587-4163).

Thur. April 29—Tilden Park, **from 9 to 12 noon.** Meet at the Little Farm (near Jewel Lake). Take Spruce Street in Berkeley to Grizzly Peak Blvd. Cross Grizzly and immediately turn left onto Canyon Drive. Lunch optional. Leaders, Jane Dang (848-0253) and Mrs. Leonard Machlis (525-8473).

Dates to save: May 8 and 9 for a camping trip on Mt. Diablo; June 19 and 20 for a camping trip in Sierra Valley; July 24 and 25 for an overnight stay at the Alpine Club on Echo Lake. Camp sites also available.

Naturalist Jack Mann will be camping during the month of May at Organ Pipes National Monument in Arizona. He knows Arizona birds well and has graciously offered to lead trips in that area for anyone who would like to join him there. If interested, call him at 352-1965 or write to him at 424 Callen St. Apt. 110, San Leandro 94577.—PATRICIA TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman.*

FIELD TRIP REPORT

In spite of a cold wind, 16 Audubon members and friends found 50 species of birds on February 17 in Coyote Hills Regional Park. In the marsh west of the parking lot Eleanor Peterson spotted an American Bittern pointing his bill skyward. At the edge of the adjacent frog pond a Rock Wren hopped on the boulders. A bright sun illuminated colorful Shovelers, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Pintail ducks. A Snipe rested in the grass and a flock of Long-billed Curlews foraged in a green field near a hovering White-tailed Kite. Black-neeked Stilts walked along the salt pond dikes. Outside the park we found 3 Burrowing Owls in a pasture on Jarvis Road.

The park naturalist would like checklists of the birds we find in Coyote Hills Park. Please send your lists and observations to Vi Homem, 6911 Armour Dr., Oakland 94611. —Pat Boese & Vi Homem, Leaders.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Yellow-billed Loon—at Bodega Bay, Feb. 25—Garth Alton
Red-necked Grebes—two at Bodega Bay, Feb. 25—Garth Alton.
American Bittern—at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, Feb. 1—Jim Clayton.
Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)—reported by Dave DeSante on Felt Lake, west of Stanford University on Feb. 5. On Feb. 7 it flew with a flock of Ring-neeked Ducks and Roy & Fran Nelson observed it on Searsville Lake. During the following week it was on Felt Lake again. A *Tufted Duck* was on the Seattle Audubon Christmas Count, Dec. 27, 1970.
Hooded Mergansers—Nine were on a lagoon near Mariner's Island Blvd., Foster City, Feb. 4—Katherine Kroll, Fran Nelson, Florence Riehardson.
Rough-legged Hawk—on Grizzly Island, Feb. 23—Garth Alton.
Ferruginous Hawk—on Tubbs Island, Feb. 11—Bill Pursell.
Golden Eagles—Three soaring together (1 adult & 2 immature) over the Mines Road south of Livermore, Feb. 5—George Bing. Golden Eagle soaring over Briones Regional Park, Feb. 16—Jim Clayton.
Bald Eagle—feeding on carrion in a pasture near Greenville Rd. in the east end of Livermore Valley, Feb. 9 & 10 ("a nearly mature bird")—George Bing.
Short-eared Owls—Twelve in San Leandro Marsh near Port of Oakland's industrial eenter Feb. 19—Elsie Roemer and Thaire Adamson.
Allen's Hummingbird—early arrival in Belmont on Jan. 24—Fran & Roy Nelson. —Vi Homem, *Observations Editor*, 339-1886

A T & T AND THE AVIFAUNA

About a year ago Ameriean Telephone & Telegraph Company opened its Point Reyes overseas radio station property to Audubon Field trips. Early in February of this year a fresh-water pond was established to attract waterfowl. On Saturday, February 13, Boy Scouts, Explorers, and Cubs from Petaluma—a wonderment of Fledglings? decended upon the property and planted 200 Monterey Pine seedlings. In a few years these should provide good cover for land birds. Golden Gate Director Bob

Conrath, of A T & T's Western Area Headquarters, played no small part in getting this project underway.

Paul Ayars, Supervisor of the radio station at Point Reyes, and his people are becoming increasingly interested in their bird haven and welcome Audubon members. Mr. Ayars' only request of visitors is advance notice for large groups and a stop at the station building to sign release forms. The station is on Sir Francis Drake Highway, about halfway between Inverness and the lighthouse. Mailing address: P. O. Box 8, Inverness, California 94939; Telephone: (415) 669-1055.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Two much-appreciated gestures of generosity have enabled Audubon Canyon Ranch to acquire a two-acre parcel of salt marsh on the west shore of Tomales Bay and to make it accessible as a study area. Situated just north of the Inverness Motel on Sir Francis Drake Highway, the property extends from the fill at the highway out more than 400 feet across the marshland and into the channel. The Inverness Garden Club made this land available to Canyon Ranch at a price considerably lower than the amount they had been offered by another prospective buyer. It will be called the William Page Shields Salt Marsh Study Area. Parking facilities, an educational display on the ecology of the marsh, and a boardwalk across the marsh and down to the water will be paid for from a grant of $3,500 recently given to the ranch by Marin Audubon for use in the Tomales Bay area.

Helen Pratt's long-term study of the rookery at Canyon Ranch was published in the October 1970 issue of *The Condor* under the title "The Breeding Biology of Great Blue Herons and Common Egrets in Central California." Reprints of her article are available at the ranch store. Mrs. Pratt began the fifth year of her study in January, soon after the first herons arrived at Schwarz Grove.

COALITION TO SAVE THE CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN LION

The Coalition, headed by Donn Beattie, is an amalgamation of twenty major conservation organizations representing more than half a million people. It was formed to support Assemblyman John Dunlap's bill A.B. 660, which if enacted would place the mountain lion under full protection in California. The Coalition's purpose is to inform citizens about the real possibility that the mountain lion may become extinct in our state unless people write their elected representatives in Sacramento.

Opposition is expected from livestock interests, who become hysterical when protection of predators is mentioned, and from hunters who regard this animal only as a trophy. Although the Fish and Game Commission has for twenty years estimated that the population of the mountain lion is about 600, their numbers appear to be decreasing. Since the animal was placed on the game animal list last year, 2,579 fifty-cent tags have been sold to hunters seeking trophies. Fifty lions have been reported killed.

"FLOOD CONTROL"—COSTS VERSUS BENEFITS

From our Western Regional Office in Sacramento comes recom-

mended reading: "Crisis on Our Rivers," an article that appeared in the December 1970 issue of *Reader's Digest*. In this article, available in reprint (10 for 50¢; 50 for $2), authors James Nathan Miller and Robert Simmons tell of plans that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers have for channelizing our wild rivers and streams—including our Delta rivers and sloughs.

According to *Regional Exchange*, a publication of People for Open Space, funds appropriated for flood control cannot be used to purchase flood plains, *even when that solution is found to be cheaper and better in all ways*. Since the U. S. Flood Control Act was passed in 1936, the Corps of Engineers has spent $7 billion in projects. This outlay has not resulted in less flooding. Rather, the reverse. Floods have increased with urban sprawl, and the Corps' budget for 1971 was reported last year to be $3.4 billion. People for Open Space ask "Why?"

OAKLAND HOBBY SHOW

Golden Gate Audubon will be represented at the annual Oakland Hobby Show, to be held in the Oakland Auditorium. Sponsored by the Oakland Hobby Council and the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department, the show will start on **Friday, April 16,** and continue through the weekend. The Audubon exhibit, which will be manned by Josh and Pearl Barkin and other volunteers, will include the fine display panel prepared by Santa Clara Audubon to develop interest in the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge. Audubon literature, refuge brochures, and other materials will be available for those who find *nature* a fascinating hobby.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING

Although there is no recent news to report on this year's Audubon Nature Training Program, the staff and volunteers who work in our office at 1749 Grove Street, Berkeley, wish to express their thanks to Mr. Ray Watkins of the Sierra Club for his kind donation of a fine desk. It is wholeheartedly appreciated and will be put to good use.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Nature Training*:

In Memory of:	*Gift of*:
Alice Leet	Miss Evelyn Olive Price
Mrs. Louise Kostainsek	The Hirvo family
Mr. James S. Moulton, Sr.	Margaret Macormack

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch*:

In Memory of:	*Gift of*:
Mr. Brutus Hamilton	Mr. & Mrs. Gerald E. Marsh
Mr. Weatherall	Dr. & Mrs. I. Kurita
Mrs. Hortense Deal	John H. Falge, Mrs. B. J. (Bonnie) Smith
Dr. D. C. Marchand	Mrs. Marion McDonald

An especially generous gift was made to *Audubon Nature Training* by Miss Florence Plymell.—Dr. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC)
Delegates: Joshua Barkin, George Peyton, Jr., Mrs. Richard F. Johnson (addresses above)

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL
Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National $10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2 per year.

High school & college student membership $6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.